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DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
FIFTH FLOOR 331 S. FRANKLIN STREET
ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27802-1180
PHONE 252-972-1267 FAX 252-972-1173
E-MAIL KIPP@CI.ROCKY-MOUNT.NC.US

Downtown News

Hanging Flower Baskets Installed on Main Street.



The beautiful flower baskets were installed on Main Street on May 5th. Many thanks to Steve Warren and Matt Sledge of the Parks Department for coordinating the program. The flowers will be watered by a summer intern.

In the Spotlight The New City Club

The City Club at MacHaven at 300 S. Grace Street had its grand re-opening on Saturday, April 23rd. If you missed the extensive painting, sprucing up and landscaping that was done leading up to the re-opening, you certainly did not miss the tremendous tent that was installed on the lawn for the event. The tent was then used for the Tar River Wine Festival on April 26th.

The New City Club is under the management of Rick Ford of Ford's Colony. Mr. Ford understands the value of downtown as a destination, including to those who have recently bought lots at Ford's Colony Rocky Mount. Besides being an entrepreneur, Mr. Ford is also a philanthropist, pledging the \$2,000 in proceeds from the re-opening event to downtown revitalization. Thank you Mr. Ford.

The New City Club is an important central city destination and complement to downtown's rebirth.

May is Preservation Month

May is National Preservation Month. The Historic Preservation Commission, Preservation Rocky Mount and the Central City Revitalization Panel are sponsoring two events to highlight existing and future preservation projects in Downtown Rocky Mount.

A May 5th Reception, from 5-7PM, at the Historic Train Station will kick-off the month. It will feature display boards and information on downtown preservation projects. The event will also feature brief remarks, hors d'oeuvres, refreshments and live jazz.

On May 14th, from 10AM-2PM, there will be a downtown preservation tour featuring the Train Station, May-Gorham Building and People's Bank Building, to name a few. Tour participants can either take the hourly bus loop (10AM, 11AM, Noon or 1PM) from the Train Station with Preservationist Bill Ferguson as the tour guide or do a self-guided tour with the maps provided.

Clean-Up Day a Success!



On April 17th, from 9AM-Noon, 35 volunteers cleaned-up Downtown Rocky Mount as part of the Twin Counties Great American Clean-Up. There were four specific tasks performed by the group: window washing, tree-well mulching, litter receptacle painting and litter pick-up. We want to give special thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, City of Rocky Mount Human Relations Department, Northern Nash High School ROTC, Elizabeth & Darin Scott, Cass Wigent and all participating volunteers.

Downtown Merchants Group Forms Committees

The downtown merchants association has held monthly meetings since February and has a dedicated core group. The association consists of not only merchants, as the name suggests, but also property owners and other stakeholders. To date, three sub-committees have been formed; Quality of Life, Promotions and Transportation.

These meetings are open to anyone interested in improving and promoting downtown. Further outreach is being done to area businesses, property owners, banks and religious institutions. As the old adage, strength in numbers, the more participants— the better . The group continues to meet the third Tuesday of every month at 5:30PM at the Chamber of Commerce Board Room on the second floor of the Train Station. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 17th. We hope to see you there!

For Review, the Downtown Action Plan

The Downtown Action Plan was recently adopted by the Central City Revitalization Panel. The plan sets forth a vision for the revitalization of Downtown Rocky Mount and important steps that can be taken to facilitate it. The plan is in its comment period in which stakeholders can give suggestions that will improve the plan. Color copies are available for viewing in City Hall at the City Manager's Office, the City Clerk's Office and at the Braswell Memorial Library, Chamber of Commerce and Carolinas Gateway Partnership. It can also be viewed and downloaded from the City's website at www.ci.rocky-mount.nc.us/downtown/forms.html

Opportunities for Investment in Downtown

229-231 Sunset Avenue
Former 8,500 square foot bank building for sale. Contact David Hodges at (252) 977-1616 x 231.

Building Lot on 200 Block of SE Main Street. For sale. Great corner location spur through to Washington Street Contact Lee Mears at (252) 443-5115.

119 SE Main Street— For sale. Small 2-story building with barber-shop/salon storefront Contact the owner at (252) 459-6158

The properties listed above are only a partial listing of investment opportunities in the central city area. This information is published solely to promote the public interest in revitalization of the central city as part of the overall economic improvement of the City of Rocky Mount. Neither the Downtown Development Office nor the City of Rocky Mount has any intent to act in any capacity as an agent for the sale or lease of these properties. For further information call 972-1267.

Sports Bar Opening!

The Lighthouse Sports Bar and Banquet Hall will be opening later this spring at 349 Falls Road. The space, a former tobacco warehouse, is over 7,000 square feet with very high ceilings.